

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-02 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 AID-05

PC-01 OMB-01 EB-07 COME-00 SCS-03 SCA-01 PPT-01

SCCT-01 SY-05 OPR-02 OC-05 CCO-00 FSI-01 AGR-05 PER-01

/094 W

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P R 211215Z MAY 75

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4432

USCINCEUR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE BEIRUT 6498

DEPT PASS TO ALL NEAR EAST DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS

E.O. 11652: N/A DECON 5-21-76

TAGS: PINS, CGEN, LE, US

SUBJECT: TRAVEL TO LEBANON

1. SECURITY SITUATION BEIRUT HAS IMPROVED SINCE PHALANGE-PALESTINIAN FIGHTING (APRIL 13-17) IN SENSE THAT NORMAL SERVICES HAVE BEEN OPERATING AND CITIZENRY ARE TRYING TO LEAD RELATIVELY NORMAL LIVES. WE SAY "RELATIVELY" BECAUSE LEBANESE ARE EXTREMELY CONCERNED ABOUT THEIR FUTURE, JUMPY ABOUT THE PRESENT AND INCREASINGLY RELUCTANT TO GO OUT AFTER DARK. THEIR FEARS AND CONCERNS HAVE BEEN STRENGTHENED BY THE LARGE NUMBER OF ISOLATED INCIDENTS SINCE THE APRIL FIGGTTNG. FOR EXAMPLYE, LENGTHY EXCHANGES OF FIRE BETWEEN PHALANGISTS AND PALESTINIAN ELEMENTS HAVE BEEN TAKING PLACE IN DEKWANEH-TEL ZAATAR SUBURB MAY 19-21 (SEE SEPTTEL. SUCH INCIDENTS APPEAR SO FAR TO BE CONFINED LARGELY TO BEIRUT, WITH THE REST OF THE COUNTRY RELATIVELY QUIET AND MOST OF IT REASONABLY SAFE FOR TRAVEL. ALTHOUGH WE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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ARE HOPEFUL, THE LOCAL SECURITY SITUATION NONETHELESS REMAINS

UNSETTLED AND TO SOME EXTENT UNPREDICTABLE.

2. UNDER THE CIRCUMSTANCES, EMBASSY AGAIN RECOMMENDS THAT DEPT IN REPLY IN INQUIRIES, DISCOURAGE PRIVATE CITIZENS FROM TRAVELING TO BEIRUT FOR THE TIME BEING. WE WOULD NOT RECOMMEND ANY PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE DEPT.

3. AS FAR AS OFFICIAL TRAVEL IS CONCERNED, WE SUGGEST IT BE CONFINED TO THOSE WHO HAVE ESSENTIAL BUSINESS.
GODLEY

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ABOVE ADDRESSEES.

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